The Board of Managers, Medical Staff and Personnel of the Dallas County Hospital District join the Nation and the World in Mourning the death of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

## A MEMORIAL

Text of the sermon delivered by Chaplain Kenneth Pepper at the Memorial Service held in the Staff Library at 4:00 p.m., Monday, November 25, 1963.

A crepe hangs solemnly on a surgery room door in the Emergency Department of our hospital which speaks symbolically of the events of the past few days. It speaks of an event for which we are all grievously shamed and sorrowful. It speaks for our feelings which have been bruised and grieved by the personal loss of our President. It represents the fact that each of us played a part in this world drama which happened in our hometown and even within the walls of the hospital itself. It thus becomes fitting that we should join hands with our nation in mourning to view the events of recent days and to pay solemn honor to the man who has shouldered the leadership of government in this all too short space of time.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, young in body, vigorous in mind, dedicated in spirit, has been taken from us. Over the din of a multitude of cheering voices rang out three shots which cut down our president and seriously wounded our governor. Neither the skill nor wisdom of the medical team, nor the resources of the richest nation on the Earth, nor the hopes and daydreams nourished in our breasts nor the earnest prayers of our souls was able to hold back the reality that the assassin's bullet had found its mark! In shocked dismay we cried out to God at the insult dealt to human dignity by this event.

Today we mourn his passing. We remember his concern for civil liberties and his concern for the underprivileged. We remember his faith in education and training and ultimate concern for the sick and the aged. Many have watched his work and have seen in him the work of an emancipator. Many of us were critical of his methods or ideas but all of us have been sharpened by the encounter with his life and leadership. We remember his family and in prayer hold them up to God that His grace may abound. In this memorial we honor the memory of our President taken in violent death.

Patrolman J. D. Tippitt, strong in heart, faithful and dedicated in service was also taken from us. Relatively unknown to us personally, yet symbolically representative of all of those who stand as a shield against evil, he gave his life in the exercise of his duty. We mourn his passing today. We memorialize his life and hold his family in prayer in these moments of worship.

Parkland is a hospital where the struggle between life and death, disease and health is our bread and meat. Rarely a 24 hour period passes that doesn't bring to our doors someone with a story of tragedy, suffering, injustice or violence. To each of these we offer an outstretched hand — sometimes to cure often to relieve and always to comfort.

The events of the last few days have reached us all. The President, the Governor and even their possible assassin have invaded our lives in a very personal way. Although the hospital personnel performed as a highly skilled team we experienced the shock and the deep hurt of an intense grief feeling. The traumatic invasion of evil and destruction is not new to us but the scope of these events have left our feelings bruised and grieving.

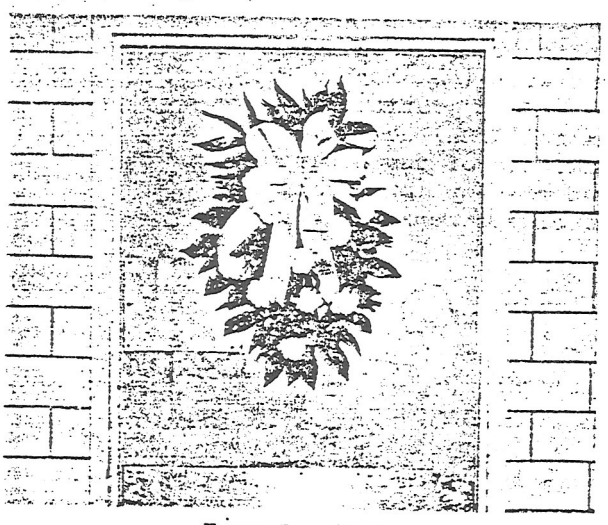
We are not alone in our grief. Our city and our state stands under the shadow of this event with the sick feelings of a World community ready to erupt in the scape-goatings of their vengeance. Dallas and the State of Texas bear a scar which will not heal quickly and which will be long remembered. As citizens we feel a hurt and shame which only God can heal. The blackness of the hour hangs heavily over us.

Death is always a cruel irreversible reality. We wrestle and struggle with the grim reaper but our success only buys for us a little more time. But for God in His eternity, we would all be lost! Neither shame, nor guilt nor death will conquer us in God.

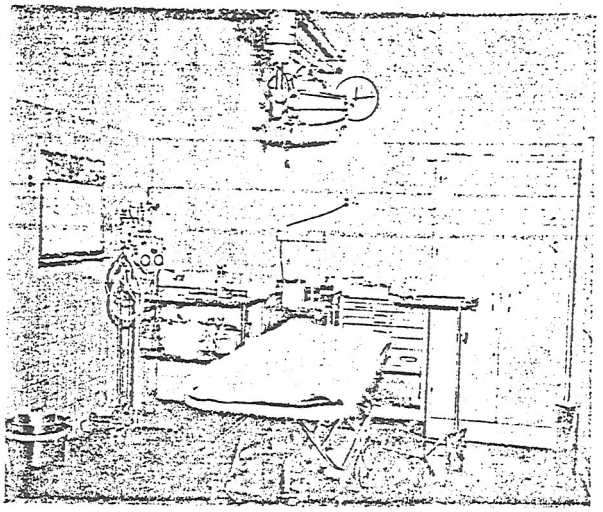
"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law: But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
*(1 Corinthians 15:54-57.)*

Hope is not lost, even in our own hospital our Governor has experienced a physical victory over this evil. Our Country's leadership has rallied to the crisis and brought unity out of the chaos. The pages of our quest of liberty is writ largely with the blood stains of patriots — both of the great and of the unknown.

Dallas bears its scar but even this can stimulate its greatness. Dallas will lift its head in forgiveness and honor. Texas will move in its tradition of undaunted bigness and integrity. In the God who is the giver of life and honor we shall have victory and life.



Trauma Room No. 1



Floral Spray placed on the door of Trauma Room No. 1 during the funeral services of President Kennedy

At 9:00 a.m., Monday, November 25, 1963, at the hour funeral ceremonies got underway in Washington, D. C., for President John F. Kennedy, a floral spray was placed on the door of Trauma Room No. 1 in Parkland's Emergency Room.

The spray marked the spot where less than three days earlier the President died after being struck by the bullets of an assassin.

Members of the administrative staff placed the spray of white carnations on the door in the name of the Board of Managers, Medical Staff and all personnel of the Dallas County Hospital District.

Chaplain Kenneth Pepper led the group in prayer as Emergency Room personnel and patients looked on.

During the time of the funeral, and ever since the death of the President, Trauma Room No. 1, has been used only when absolutely necessary.

A number of suggestions have been made for memorializing the room where the President died, but no definite plans have been announced by the Board of Managers.

## PARKLAND BECOMES SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

As Governor John Connally, lay recuperating from the wounds inflicted by the assassins bullets, many changes took place in the routine of Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Governor Connally continued to run the business of the State of Texas from his hospital bed. Bill Stinson, administrative assistant to the Governor, set up a special office in a portion of the administrative suite and the Texas Department of Public Safety established a radio communication center in the Nursing Service Office.

In addition to Mr. Stinson, Maurine Ray, personal secretary to the Governor, and Joan Kennedy, secretary to Mr. Stinson who staffed the office full time, many other aides and volunteers worked out of the office.

George Christian, administrative assistant for news and public relations and Julian Read, press aide, were on hand for about the first week.

Howard Rose, executive assistant and Larry Temple, administrative assistant to the Governor, visited briefly from Austin.

Judge Merrill Connally, the Governor's brother represented the family and received the many guests and well wishers.

State Highway Patrolmen, who are responsible for the Governor's safety, were assisted by the Dallas Police Department and hospital security guards in establishing proper security measures at Parkland. The Highway Patrolmen were under the command of Col. Homer Garrison, Jr., Director of Texas Department of Public Safety, and Major Guy Smith, regional commander, Dallas Region.

## MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T REALIZED - - - - -

* It was in the Parkland Memorial Hospital Emergency Room where Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson became the President of the United States at the moment of death of the late President Kennedy.
* At the time the dying President and wounded Governor were brought into the Emergency Room, there were 23 other patients undergoing treatment in the area. Seven additional emergency patients were admitted and treated between the time of arrival of the President and Governor at 12:38 p.m. and the removal of the President's body at 2:19 p.m.
* Every employee of the Dallas County Hospital District, whether working with the President, the Governor, another patient or performing regular duties contributed to the successful handling of the situation.
* Members of the press from around the nation and throughout the world have visited Parkland Memorial Hospital and telephoned in for information on the manner in which this emergency was managed.

## EXCERPTS FROM A FEW OF THE MANY COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Our hearts have been with you and your team in these tragic days. You have carried on in the finest tradition under what must have been the most trying circumstances. Your efforts will stand as an example for all hospitals.

Stewart Hamilton, M.D.
Immediate Past President
American Hospital Association

Bill Stinson, center, administrative assistant to Governor John Connally, and chief of the temporary office established at Parkland Memorial Hospital, is shown with Col. Homer Garrison, Jr., left, Director of Texas Department of Public Safety and Highway Patrolman H. D. Jacks, who was driver for President Lyndon B. Johnson at the time of the assassination.

Governor and Mrs. John Connally shown in the Governor's hospital room immediately following his first press conference which was televised nationally Wednesday, November 27.

On behalf of the KXOL reporters who covered the tragic assassination of President Kennedy and the wounding of Governor Connally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to your hospital staff. Our reporters at the scene told me they received every possible cooperation from your staff members in such a trying situation.

Roy Eaton
News Director, KXOL
Fort Worth, Texas

At a special meeting held on Monday, November 25, 1963, the Hospital Council Board of Directors asked me to extend the heartfelt congratulations of the 182 members of this Council to Parkland Memorial Hospital for the outstanding manner in which the hospital and its personnel conducted themselves during the recent tragedies surrounding the death of President Kennedy.

Your deportment at a time of extreme emergency held up for the entire nation an image of hospitals at their finest.

Henry X. Jackson
President
Hospital Council of Southern California

Every Auxiliary member I have talked with this past awful week has echoed the same sentiment, "How proud we are of Parkland, the way its staff rose so magnificently to the occassion, and how providential it was that the Emergency Room was so expertly redesigned and reorganized to serve so well in this and other emergencies."

When the eyes of all the world were on Dallas, this most important service of all was exactly right. We can all be so thankful for the fine leadership in our hospital, and in our great country that will enable us all to carry on in the best American tradition.

Mrs. Philip Van Horn Gerdine
President
The Women's Auxiliary to the
Dallas County Hospital District

The Medical Advisory Council unanimously voted to commend the Hospital Administrative Officers, the Medical Staff, the Hospital Employees, the Volunteers, and the Women's Hospital Auxiliary for the prompt and effective way in which they dealt with the medical emergencies produced by the assassination of the President of the United States and the other tragic events of the past several days.

In no small measure the Hospital Staff's ability to function so well was made possible by the recent expansion of physical facilities and increase in personnel in the Emergency Area. The Medical Advisory Council expresses its gratitude to the Hospital Board for these improvements.

Harry M. Spence, M.D.
Chairman, Medical Advisory Council
Dallas County Hospital District